



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN
EDUCATION FUND**

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To: Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaign Reform

Re: Statement on AB 406 and AB 545 for November 17, 2009 Public Hearing

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on two bills related to elections in Wisconsin. Assembly Bill 406 deals with the challenging of ballots of electors at the polling place. It would allow only someone who lives in the same ward to make such a challenge. We believe this is an unnecessary restriction, which would only add to the many rules election officials have to implement and enforce on Election Day. Where you live has no bearing on the information you may have related to someone's right to vote. New rules have significantly limited the number of challenges in the past few elections, and we see no need for further restrictions.

We support AB 545 which provides that an election official must be an elector of the county where the municipality where the official serves is located. This loosens the current requirement that election officials be residents of the ward or election district served by a polling place. It will lead to smoother election administration by expanding the pool from which clerks can recruit poll workers. We urge you to support this bill.

Thank you.